

News release

Peaceful pipeline protest in Montreal ends with seven arrests, Greenpeace Canada activists still detained

5 December 2016 (MONTREAL) — The morning after Standing Rock Sioux water protectors secured a monumental victory in their fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from being built on their land, Greenpeace Canada activists took aim at Canada's own controversial pipelines, sending a message to Prime Minister Trudeau and the provincial Premiers that their pipeline approvals will be met with similar massive national opposition.

"Today Prime Minister Trudeau and the Premiers got a taste of the kind of opposition they can expect across the country from First Nations, communities and environmentalists if they continue to push the Kinder Morgan and Line 3 pipelines," said Keith Stewart, Head of Greenpeace Canada's climate & energy campaign. "Trudeau secured his election on promises of ushering Canada into a renewable energy economy, but continued with the 'business as usual' tar sands expansion which will leave us locked into the old economy."

After more than eight hours at the tar sands terminal near a tanker in Montreal, the non-violent direct action ended with the arrest of all seven Greenpeace Canada activists, who are still being detained by police at the Centre Operational Est in Montreal — though authorities have yet to reveal what they may be charged with.

The action follows the federal approval of the Kinder Morgan and Enbridge's Line 3 pipelines and is intended to send a message of pan-Canadian opposition to new pipelines at the December 8-9 First Ministers' meeting in Ottawa on climate change.

"Faced with a choice between siding with the short-term interests of the oil industry versus showing the kind of climate leadership he promised at the Paris climate conference, Trudeau missed a historic opportunity to stand up to Big Oil and secure a safe climate and clean water for all," said Patrick Bonin, Greenpeace Canada climate and energy campaigner. "Our activists today acted safely at all times, which is in stark contrast to our government's approval of oil sands pipelines that threaten the global climate and the water supplies of First Nations and citizens along the proposed pipeline routes."

Greenpeace Canada activists entered the loading dock terminal in East Montreal around 6am local time today. Three climbers scaled the pipes, which feed tar sands oil into the tankers, while two activists locked down to the bottom of the pipes. Another two activists chained themselves to the front gate of the terminal. The activists remained in place until police arrived and began to remove and arrest them, with the final activist being arrested at 2:30pm today.

Seven Greenpeace Canada "kayaktivists" later joined in support of the action, paddling on the St. Lawrence River to highlight the risk of an oil spill to Montreal's drinking water. The kayaktivists were not arrested.

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New photos are available now at this link:

<http://media.greenpeace.org/shoot/27MZIFJJBYPFOQ&SO>

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Notes to editors:

The activists who were arrested today are: Francois Boyer, Mel Goyer, June Kendall, Jonathan Lavoie, Jesse Richman, Marie-Eve Robert, and Guillaume Sylvestre.